

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

**House Bill 5004: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING - Support**

**House Bill 6693 - AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING - Support**

**Senate Bill 1057 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND  
EARLY VOTING - Support**

**Senate Bill 1064 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY  
VOTING - Support**

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 29 - RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO  
THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING -  
Support**

**House Joint Resolution No. 1 - RESOLUTION APPROVING A STATE  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING  
- Support**

Senator Flexer, Representative Blumenthal, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Tom Connolly and I am a voter from West Hartford and in full support of the above legislation. I appreciate all those who are working to expand and protect the freedom to vote in Connecticut. I will be 79 years old next month and have never missed voting in an election my entire adult life. To me elections are a sacred right to preserve our democracy.

Unfortunately, Connecticut has some of the most restrictive voter laws in the nation. I urge that you:

- Pass legislation **that designs and fully funds** Connecticut's first-ever Early in-person Voting system by March, 2023 to give town elections officials time to incorporate any budgetary changes in advance of the 2023 municipal election cycle.
- Adopt the proposed resolution for Connecticut **to join 35 other states that allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.**
- Pass legislation that allows (1) the municipal clerk to deliver absentee ballots to the ballot counters before or at six o'clock p.m. on the day of an election. **.(2) notification of voters whose absentee ballots may be rejected due to a defect. so that voters can either correct the defect or vote in person;** (3) prepaid postage for the return of absentee ballots; (4) completed absentee ballot applications that have been completed and signed to be public records subject to public inspection.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and I urge you to support these bills to strengthen our democracy and improve our voting system.

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